A Super Note-taking Strategy: Cornell Notes

Why should you take notes?
- To engage in active learning and reading
- To study, particularly through self-quizzing
- To have a consistent way to organize your materials
- To support better retention of material, especially when hand-written

The Cornell method allows you to take notes in a way that is conducive to self-quizzing.

The right column is for taking the actual notes.

Use the left column for headers, key ideas, cues, vocabulary words, main ideas, and making a question from the notes.

The bottom section is for summarizing and paraphrasing when needed. It can also be placed anywhere within the notes.

Now, you can cover the right column and quiz yourself from the cues in the left column.

For more great note-taking ideas check out these YouTube videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AffuwyJZTQQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZgMpijgCRA

This publication is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling $1,982,942 with 0% percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.